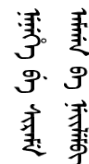


Farewell Note from the Editor-in-Chief



After having taken up the editorship of *Chinese Science* in 1999 as successor to Nathan Sivin and Benjamin A. Elman, more than seventeen years have now passed. When I started with my editorial work, we changed the name of the journal from *Chinese Science* to *East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine*. The reason was that the journal became the flagship of the International Society for the History of East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine (ISHEASTM), and thus had to reflect the wider spectrum of research topics in its title. Since 1999 we have published altogether 29 issues of EASTM, that is, from issue 16 (1999) to this present one, no. 44 (2016). About one half of them, that is, fifteen numbers, were special issues on specific research topics, such as No 21 (2003) on “Forays into the Field of Vietnamese Military Technology,” No 29 (2008) and 30 (2009) on “Society and Illness in Early Modern Japan” and No 36 on “Women and Textile Production Techniques in Traditional China.” Many scholars used this format for coming together to publish research that was significant enough in quality for a collective publication, but often not yet sufficient quantitatively to be published as an edited book. Under my editorship, 107 articles were published altogether, 34 on science (in the widest sense), 23 on technology, 31 on medicine, and 5 on theoretical issues. The rest consisted of 11 introductions from guest editors for special issues, 1 bibliographical account, 2 obituaries and 1 birthday address. As EASTM basically did not set a limit on the number of pages for individual contributions, we sometimes also included very lengthy articles with rich and detailed documentation of sources. One example is, for instance, Volker Scheid’s “Restructuring the Field of Chinese Medicine: A Study of the Menghe and Ding Scholarly Currents, 1600-2000” (22 (2004): 10-68, & 23 (2005): 79-130), another Beatriz Puente-Ballesteros’ “Jesuit Medicine in the Kangxi Court (1662-1722): Imperial Networks and Patronage” (34 (2011): 86-162), or Nicolas Standaert’s “Jesuit Accounts of Chinese History and Chronology and their Chinese Sources” (35 (2012): 11-88). We also printed (four times, to be precise) shorter contributions that did not yet constitute full-fledged articles, and which we termed “research notes.” To this may be added the 24 notes from the editor, including this contribution. It is also interesting to have a look at the geographical coverage of the journal content, which shows a clear focus on China (67), followed by Japan (10), Vietnam (4),

Korea (2), East Asia (2), Europe (2), India (1), East Indies (1), and Mesopotamia (1). Altogether, 167 reviews were published, mostly on books in Western languages, 11 of them being review articles of more-than-usual length. Expressed in page numbers, EASTM issues 16 to 44 total more than 4,400 pages.¹

All this would not have been possible without the help and support of many individuals and institutions. First of all, it is both a great pleasure and pleasant obligation for me to highlight the role of John P. C. Moffett, Librarian at the Needham Research Institute in Cambridge, who together with me is the only “survivor” from the original crew.² He fulfilled the crucial and sometimes strenuous task of an English Language Editor, guaranteeing through these many years that EASTM contributions written by non-native speakers were published in native and scholarly English. His constant support was an important pillar of the EASTM enterprise and its success, and this will continue in the future. Enormous gratitude is owed also to my co-editors who have assisted me so effectively, the late Jutta Rall-Niu (Hamburg), and thereafter Mark Elvin (Oxford), Christine Moll-Murata (Bochum) and Ulrich Theobald (Tübingen). Their dedication and professional reliability made my task of editor-in-chief so much more manageable. During my period in the service of EASTM I could also count on a number of Managing and Production Editors. Before the present incumbent these were He Heng, Steffen Dyck, Vanessa Dahlmann, Valerie Keppel, Michael Schön, Tobias Wissler, Katharina Markgraf and Alexander Jost, all of them former MA students of Sinology in Tübingen, the latter four also having obtained a PhD degree in Sinology in Tübingen or elsewhere. This makes clear that EASTM offered graduate students and junior researchers an excellent opportunity to get involved in the editing and production of a leading academic journal. They experienced what it means to produce a scholarly article, with all the concomitant requirements both in qualitative and formal terms, something that certainly was also helpful for writing their own MA and PhD theses.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Local Advisory Board and the International Advisory Committee for their support of EASTM, as well as the many readers and referees of our journal for their interest, advice and encouragement over this long period. As they are simply

¹ The reader may be aware that the figures given above are—metrologically speaking—quite precise, but not necessarily exact.

² “Et quant el furent la venu, il trovent que Argon estoit mors, dont la dame fu doné a Caçan, le filz Argon. Et voç di san fail que quant il entrarent es nes il furent bien VIC sanç les mariners: tuit mor[u]rent, for solemant XVIII. ...” See Gabriella Ronchi, *Marco Polo, Milione. Le divisament dou monde: Il Milione nelle redazioni toscana e franco-italiana*, with a preface of Cesare Segre, 2nd ed. Milano: Mondadori (I meridiani), 1988, p. 322.

too many to mention individually, I can only express my gratitude here in a collective, but nonetheless most cordial and appreciative way:

“Valen a pena? Tudo vale a pena
Se a alma não é pequena.”³

The journal, no doubt, owes its excellent reputation and high profile to a great extent to all those scholars who submitted their special issues, articles and reviews for publication. Their contributions reflect the trends and phenomenal growth over the last two decades of the field of the history of East Asian science, technology and medicine. One splendid example of this is the continuation of the special issue on numerical tables and tabular layouts in premodern Chinese scholarly documents curated by Karine Chemla, as well as Constance A. Cook’s fascinating article on what was probably a fatal case of *gu* 蠱 poisoning in fourth-century BC China. These articles constitute a more than worthy tribute to the end of my and my collaborators’ editorship.

It is indeed our honour also that we were able to assist in the evolution of the field of East Asian science, technology and medicine by making important research results more widely available. The publication of EASTM has not only become semi-annual, but has increased its availability dramatically by online publication on Eastm.org and the JSTOR and EBSCO platforms. The practical implementation of this novel way of publication was especially due to the efforts of my present Production and Managing Editor and Tübingen PhD candidate Ailika Schinköthe, who merits special mention in this respect. None of this, however, would have been possible without the financial support of ISHEASTM, the University of Tübingen and especially the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG). The DFG has been a tremendously generous supporter of EASTM from the very beginning of my editorship, first by providing financial aid for publishing the print version, and then for its help in transforming the print journal into an online publication. This German institution has earned our most special gratitude, which we can only repay through the quality of our journal and by displaying prominently the DFG logo on it, thus making public on a truly international level its great contribution to global scholarship.

Now it is time to hand over the journal to the new editorial team clustered around Catherine Jami, member of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris, and well-known scholar in the field. With her and her team as successors, I am sure that the journal is in excellent hands, and will continue to prosper and reach new heights. I leave the EASTM editorship *mit einem lachenden und einem weinenden Auge*, as we say in German. On the one hand I will miss the inspiration and widening of horizons that I continually experienced by being forced to read articles from a variety of research

³ Fernando Pessoa, *Mensagem*, prólogo e anotações de Pedro Sinde, Porto: Portoeditora, 2016, “Mar Portuguez” (1921), p. 81.

areas, while on the other hand I will have now more time for dealing more intensively with my own topics of interest and bringing them to completion.

丁酉春，傅漢思寫於濠鏡。

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